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party besides access to a mass of documents bearing on its history and aims. His method of treatment is that of the practiced investigator, and his sources of information are fully and carefully indicated. He gives due prominence to the economic aspects of his subject, which are so inextricably involved in the political.

L'idée d'évolution dans la nature et l'histoire. Par GASTON RICHARD, agrégé de philosophie, docteur ès lettres, chargé du cours de sociologie à l'Université de Bordeaux. Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques. Paris: Félix Alcan, 1903. Pp. iv + 403.

THIS weighty volume, which has met with high commendation from M. Th. Ribot, represents a method that becomes increasingly popular—the application of philosophic generalization to biologic, sociologic, and historic material. It is divided into three parts: “The Biologic Problem,” “The Psychologic and Sociologic Problem,” and “Conscience and the Genetic Explanation;” and makes use of recent philosophic standpoints; in fact, is perhaps somewhat overweighted with the latest floating terminology. The treatment is throughout philosophic as opposed to sociologic, if one may use a rough (and rather misleading) popular distinction. The first part follows the custom of continental works of this class in pointing out the shortcomings of Mr. Herbert Spencer and the contradictions and deficiencies of the Darwinian view of evolution. M. Richard finds the law of evolution through natural selection merely one expression of the law of the conservation of energy; and holds that a more adequate dynamic statement of the universe as a whole is to be made through tracing the development of specific phenomena by means of the genetic method, and working toward a system in which these various series may be shown to be reversible and mutually convertible.

La condition de la femme dans les diverses races et civilisations. Par CH. LETOURNEAU. Avec une notice biographique par G. PAPILLAUT. (“Bibliothèque sociologique et internationale.”) Paris: Girard & Brière, 1903. Pp. xvi + 508. Fr. 11.

THIS posthumous work of the indefatigable Ch. Letourneau is the last volume in his well-known series of comparative studies of social institutions. It has the merits and the grave defects of its predecessors.